

Maryland Historical Trust

State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Bell House (preferred)

and/or common Quarters "AA"/Building #969

2. Location

street & number In Patuxent River Naval Air Station on Millstone Road not for publication

city, town Lexington Park ☒ vicinity of congressional district first

state Maryland county St. Mary's

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<u> </u> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<u> </u> agriculture	<u> </u> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<u> </u> private	<u> </u> unoccupied	<u> </u> commercial	<u> </u> park
<u> </u> structure	<u> </u> both	<u> </u> work in progress	<u> </u> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<u> </u> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<u> </u> entertainment	<u> </u> religious
<u> </u> object	<u> </u> in process	<u> </u> yes: restricted	<u> </u> government	<u> </u> scientific
	<u> </u> being considered	<u> </u> yes: unrestricted	<u> </u> industrial	<u> </u> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<u> </u> military	<u> </u> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Department of the Navy, U.S. Government

street & number telephone no.:

city, town state and zip code

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. St. Mary's County Courthouse liber JMM 8

street & number folio 18

city, town Leonardtown state MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title none

date federal state county local

pository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. SM-360

Condition

☒ excellent
☐ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☒ unaltered
☐ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

8. Significance

Survey No.

SM-360

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates**Builder/Architect**

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Survey No. SM-360

Homeowner's Loan Association, Valuation Analysis and Conclusions (1942). Ms. on file,
Southern Maryland Regional Preservation Center, St. Mary's City, MD.

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

H | | | |

state MD

PS-2746

Bell House

7.0

The Bell House is a 2-story frame dwelling traditionally believed to date to the third quarter of the 19th century. The main part of the house, oriented in an east-west axis, is five bays wide and one room deep with brick chimneys at either end of the pitched gable roof. A 2-story frame wing on the rear or south facade is early is not original.

The principal facade of the house faces north toward Millstone Landing Road. The entrance is located in the center bay, framed by a three-light transom and six-light sidelights and flanked by two large six-over-six windows on either side. A pair of four-over-four windows is centered on the second story of this facade, flanked by single six-over-six windows to east and west. A small entrance porch protecting the door is a 20th-century feature. The house rests on a stucco or concrete foundation and is now covered with aluminum siding. The eaves are sheathed with aluminum and the roof is covered with asphalt shingles.

The chimney on the east gable projects nine inches from the wall, and is flanked by large six-over-six windows on the first and second stories. Small ventilators flank the chimney in the upper gable. The exterior is covered with aluminum siding; the gable eaves are boxed and return at the second-story eave.

On the west gable wall, the chimney is offset to left (north) of center, and also projects about nine inches from the wall. Paired six-over-six windows to the right of the chimney on the first and second story are the only openings. A ventilator is located to the south of the chimney in the upper gable. The foundation, siding, and eaves match the east gable,

The rear facade of the main house is partially concealed by the two-story rear wing; is offset to left (west) of center to form a modified "T" plan. There are single six-over-six windows on the first and second story of the east bay of the rear facade and one four-over-four window in the west bay of the first story. The remainder of the rear facade is concealed by the wing. The foundation, siding, eaves, and roofing match the front facade.

The rear wing is nearly square, measuring two bays by two bays, with a pitched gable roof set perpendicular to the ridge of the main house.

On the west facade, there is a door in the south bay and a six-over-six window in the north bay of the first story and two six-over-six windows on the second story. A one-story enclosed porch protects the first story entrance and preserves earlier plain horizontal siding.

The east facade of the wing is similar to the west facade, but the entrance is protected by a simple gable-roofed entrance hood rather than a porch.

On the south gable wall, there are two six-over-six windows on the first story and one six-over-six window in the east bay of the second story. The foundation, siding, cornice, and roofing ~~XXXXXXXX~~ match the main house.

The interior consists of a center passage plan with one room on either side of the stair passage. The stair rises against the west wall of the passage in a straight run to the second floor. It is a closed-string stair with square newel posts, turned balusters, and a molded rail. The interior trim is plain, the fireplaces are faced with brick and trimmed with a molded shelf.

The second story has been renovated and the original center passage plan modified to form three sleeping chambers and one bathroom. A fourth chamber is located in the second story of the wing.

A trap door in the ceiling of the passage allows access to the attic. The roof of the main house is constructed of circular sawn material nailed with wire nails. The roof of the wing is contemporary with the main roof but each joint is nailed with a mixture of wire and machine-made nails. This may indicate that the roof has been rebuilt, but more likely it suggests a construction date of circa 1890, when wire nails were first coming into general use in this region.

8.0

The Bell House is a good representative example of a two-story, three-bay farm ~~h~~house with a "T" plan incorporating an early or original wing. Thomas (1963) suggests that the house had been built by 1873, but the architectural evidence suggests a somewhat later date -- circa 1890.

SM-360

Bell House

Solomons Island Quad

E N T R I V E R

HUG P

Fishing Pt

Pearson Creek

Harper Creek

SM-360

P A T U X E N T R I V E R

A I R T E S T C E N T E R

Pine Hill

Towers

Run

712



Hog Pt

Fishing Pt

Pearson Creek

Harper Creek

SM 360

PATUXENT RIVER

AIR TEST CENTER

Abell 2

Towers

BM 118

Pine

Hall

Towers

SM 360

CI



#969 Ball House

(Sm 360)